



## ***Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Minutes***

***Jefferson County Courthouse***

***311 S Center Ave, Rm 203***

***Jefferson, WI 53549***

***Monday, October 12, 2015 @ 12:30 pm***

**Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), Steve Nass (Secretary), Mariah Hadler, and Blane Poulson.**

**1. Call to Order:**

The monthly meeting was called to order by Margaret Burlingham at 12:34 pm. Committee members Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Mariah Hadler (Member), and Steve Nass (Secretary) (@ 12:53 pm) were present. Also in attendance were Jim Schroeder, County Board Chairman; Mark Watkins, Director, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD); Gerry Kokkonen, LWCD; Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD; and Michelle Staff, Planning & Zoning Department. Walt Christensen (Vice Chair) and Blane Poulson (Member) were absent.

**2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):**

A quorum was established.

**3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:**

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

**4. Approval of the October Agenda:**

The October agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

**5. Approval of the September 14, 2015 Meeting Minutes:**

Margaret Burlingham made a motion to approve the September 14, 2015 meeting minutes as written, Jim Schroeder seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

**6. Communications:**

There were no communications at this time.

**7. Public Comment:**

There were no comments at this time.

**8. Discussion on Rodell Lea's Easement Compliance:**

Michelle Staff informed the commission that Rodell Lea has been issued a zoning permit to move the structure which is in violation of the easement. Gerry Kokkonen went to Lea's site, confirmed the structure is in the process of being moved, and will follow up to confirm completion of the move.

**9. Discussion on Dale Neupert's Easement Compliance:**

Nothing new to discuss at this time.

**10. Discussion and Possible Action on Purchase of Agricultural Conservation Easement (PACE) Applications:**

**a. Greg Wilke, Town of Waterloo**

Mark Watkins - waiting for confirmation that the barn foundation has been removed. Margaret Burlingham will contact Greg Wilke to remind him of the appraisal deadline. Margaret Burlingham will contact NRCS and ask them to go through the easement language with Greg Wilke.

**b. Cliff Haberman, Town of Milford**

Gerry Kokkonen will contact NRCS to see if the DNR Endangered Species Assessment recommended in the Environmental Report needs to be completed. Gerry Kokkonen will finalize the baseline documents when the farmstead envelope is finished by the County Surveyor. Michelle Staff told the commission that NRCS may require Cliff Haberman to rezone the property that isn't currently included in the easement.

**11. Discussion on Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements:**

Baseline Documentation was discussed within item # 10

**12. Discussion on the 2016 Budget:**

Steve Nass - Finance Committee voted no, 5/0, on the resolutions sent by the commission and the resolutions will be sent back to County Board. Mark Watkins - there is some money that may be available for easements left over from the Federal Flood Mitigation in 2008. Jim Schroeder told the commission that future easement requests will be handled on a case by case basis.

**13. Discussion on Strengthening Agricultural Enterprise Areas:**

This item will be discussed at the next meeting when Blane Poulson is present.

**14. Discussion on Future Events that the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission would like to participate in and Community Outreach:**

Fort Atkinson Winter Farmers Market, 12/05/15, 9:00 - 3:00

**15. Discussion on Items for the Next Agenda:**

Items # 8 - 15, Burlingham Donated Easement

**16. Next Scheduled Meeting:**

November 9, 2015@ 12:30 pm in Room 203.

**17. Adjournment:**

Steve Nass made a motion to adjourn at 1:14 pm, Mariah Hadler seconded. Motion carried 4/0.